

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD
September 29, 2026
Town Office**

NOT APPROVED

Allen Alger, Road Foreman
Tom Purdy, Sr., Clerk of the Works
Bryan Young, Treasurer

Select Board: Andrea Treadway, Chair
Joe Pouliot
Hans Tudhope
Les Wood, Vice Chair

Absent: Mike Christian

Anna Golann, Clerk

The Regular Select Board Meeting was called to order at 7:18 P.M., by Andrea Treadway, Select Board Chair.

1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.

Tom Purdy, Clerk of the Works, stated that the contractor should have completed the MERP project 3 months ago. He explained that he isn't going to bill the town for his work and articulated concern due to many grey areas in the land use regulations and an urgent need for updates. He also explained that he is not planning to be the Zoning Administrator after May next year and is happy to work with someone new that is interested in the position. He detailed concerns with contradictory parameters between the land use regulations allowance of temporary permits and how Listers qualify permanent properties, among other examples. Andrea explained that the DRB/PC will need to work on the land use regulations and that the Select Board can ask for this work to be done but cannot work on this themselves.

2. HIGHWAY REPORT.

- a. Road Foreman Report – Allen Alger, Road Foreman, gave the highway report. He stated that he has been mowing brush for the last week with Pete, while Alex was on vacation. Alex worked on the Grant in Aids work and Allen asked Andrea for help with a couple things relating to the grant. Tomorrow morning, Allen explained that the firetrucks will be working at the Sewer Plant to clean out lines. In addition, there are a couple of culverts to change, more brush to mow, and finishing of the sand pile. Andrea stated that Nedra will be coming by to take pictures of the Salt Shed, which will be submitted for a building of Excellence Award for Lester. Andrea asked whether Allen had spoken with Mike Winslow regarding highway grant administration and he explained that he hasn't had a chance yet. Andrea urged that he speak with Mike soon to receive support. Allen also explained an ongoing issue with Maple Broadband not acquiring the appropriate permits and burying in the Town right of way. He stated that Anna, Town Clerk, has informed them that they need a permit. Discussion ensued about the number of lines, entanglement with farm and town vehicles, and the legal height of the wires. Separately, Allen mentioned that he talked to Sunderland Tree Service about work ethic and informed the Board that they picked up the following day and completed a lot of tree removal. Joe stated that \$10,000 didn't get us very far in terms of work and stated that a lot of work is still needed.

3. MINUTES.

Les Wood moved to accept the minutes of the Select Board Meeting of September 14, 2026. Joe Pouliot seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

4. SEWER REPORT.

- a. Dundons (Sewer Cleanout)- Andrea received a phone call from Chris Dundon inquiring about submitting invoices for recent work completed at the Sewer Plant or doing a swap on the work Dundon's is completing and the Septage amount they pay each month in dumping fees. Andrea explained that she checked with VLCT about this and hasn't heard back and that she couldn't make this decision alone. Les explained that this should be as transparent as possible. Andrea asked for Bryan's feedback and he stated that as long as the amounts are all documented, this can work. Hans stated that he isn't inclined to make a motion and asked whether other Board members had strong opinions. The Board decided that making a swap was unnecessary.

5. TOWN CLERK REPORT.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

- a. MERP- Andrea is hoping to have a meeting this Thursday with All Point Construction. She asked Bryan Young, Treasurer, to stop payment on the check that is lost in the mail and reissue a new check for the company to pick up at the Town Office. Les spoke with Jason, Owner of All Points, and he still hadn't received his check an hour before the meeting. Andrea stated that All Points is supposed to be sending weekly updates and no work has been completed other than new ceiling tiles and one electrician running wires last week. Andrea also explained that the Rescue Squad is not willing to share their space much longer due to vital equipment getting unplugged, such as the AED, and trash cans being left for weeks in the way of the rescue bay. Discussion ensued about whether a lawyer should be involved at this point to ensure the rest of the work is completed. Andrea explained that the Project Manager who has been working in Orwell was recently moved onto another project, which was against the agreement made in past meetings. Discussion ensued about whether to completely stop the payment that is lost in the mail and issue after work is complete. The Board discussed how payments are being made per the contract before the work is complete. Tom Purdy, Clerk of the Works, recommended check cancellation and reissuance once a certain amount of work is complete from a defined punch list. Andrea suggested hiring the master electrician directly to complete the work needed for the grant. Discussion ensued about the remainder of work to be completed and the associated timelines. Hans questioned the worst outcome for the Town and its financial liability. He suggested that we loop the lawyer into the contract and ask for recommendations on how to proceed. The Board also discussed involvement from the State and why the Board decided to go with All Points' bid originally.

Joe Pouliot moved to stop payment on the lost check and consult with the lawyer regarding the contract. Hans Tudhope seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

- a. Orwell Store Community Trust- This was not discussed, due to lack of community presenter attendance.
- b. OFL Library Trustee Recommendation- Andrea read aloud a recent email from Cindy Werner, Chair of the Library Trustees, stating, "The OFL Trustees have agreed to suggest Stephanie Wilbur fulfill the open position of trustee following the resignation of Rae Ann Barry."

Joe Pouliot moved to approve the nomination of Stephanie Wilbur as trustee. Les Wood seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

- c. DRB/PC - Open Meeting Law Concerns & Division of Roles- Andrea explained recent concerns originating from a member of the Development Review Board and Planning Commission regarding open meeting law. She stated that this individual had concerns regarding meeting agendas not getting posted in time on the website per the required warning time. There was a concern at the last DRB meeting regarding the agenda being posted properly throughout Town

but not on the website in time. Andrea has reached out to VLCT and hasn't heard a definitive answer, noting that there is no State Ethics Committee and currently this is operated by self-governance. Andrea noted that when she was the Secretary of the DRB/PC, she was responsible for all warnings being posted appropriately in the Addison Independent, and ensuring agendas and meeting minutes were created in time to be posted. Andrea explained that the DRB/PC is entitled to a paid Secretary and suggested Jess Krol may be interested. Joe Andriano, current Secretary of the DRB/PC, has questions regarding the quasi-judicial work of the Board and liability on the Town. Dan Redondo, Chair, Joe, and Anna and Sarah, clerks, are to meet this week to discuss clear procedures between the Town Office and the Board moving forward. Andrea suggested that all DRB/PC and Select Board members complete an in-person training regarding open meeting law from VLCT, stating that she would look into the associated cost. Rick Buxton, Jr. questioned whether the Town Clerk is liable for this work and Andrea confirmed that this work is to be completed by the DRB/PC, not the Town Office. Discussion ensued about the possibility of hiring a Town Manager who may be able to complete some of these roles that have gone unfilled by the community, being careful to combine only legally appropriate roles. Responsibilities discussed as a need for Orwell included zoning, grant writing & administration, and Town lister roles. Andrea discussed that we currently do not have a full slate of listers and would need to have an article for Town Meeting to discuss whether to appoint listers in the future or go with an external source. Hans detailed that society has changed, noting declining participation and that Orwell is behind on compensated value for community work. Discussion continued with regard to cost to the Town of hiring out these roles and recent laws in Vermont that are hoping to regionalize Town work.

- d. VLCT Employment Resource and Benefits Trust, Inc - Ballot- Andrea discussed that there is currently one opening on the VERB Board, with Bryan Young seeking re-election. Bryan explained that the Employment Resource and Benefits Trust operates its own funding of unemployment claims for Towns through VLCT, rather than the State.

Joe Pouliot moved to designate the Chair to vote on the ballot and appoint Bryan Young. Les Wood seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

- e. Vermont Roots Music Collective- Andrea read aloud emails between Daniel Whittemore and Anna, regarding bringing free live music to Orwell next Summer. Daniel created Vermont Roots Music Collective, a young non-profit, which operated three free outdoor concerts at Peet Farm in Cornwall in the summer of 2026. The Board discussed possible locations in Town that could accommodate a large number of people, including: the Village Green, Ball Field, or a local farm. Andrea explained that the non-profit would need to provide a certificate of insurance and fill out a request with the Town in order for the events to occur. The Board directed Anna to forward the conversation on to Kate, Orwell Free Librarian, and the Orwell Parks & Recreation Committee to hopefully extend the concert series to Orwell next summer.
- f. Ball Field Dugout- Travis Betourney attended the meeting to discuss a donation of time and materials by Keith's Roofing & Carpentry, Inc. to re-roof the dugouts on 22A with standing seam. The Board thanked Travis and Keith for their donation. Travis confirmed a roof color of green or grey with the Board.

Joe Pouliot moved to accept the generous donation to re-roof the ballfield dugouts. Les Wood seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

- a. Highway Position Opening- There are currently no bites for the open highway position and Pete is retiring at the end of October.
- b. Cargill Contract- Per agreement at a previous Select Board meeting, Andrea signed the Cargill contract for the year, noting a price of \$106.75 per ton, with an estimation of 725 tons.

10. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Hans Tudhope moved to pay the General Fund Orders in the amount of \$25,341.23, Sewer Orders in the amount of \$3,515.83 and the Town Payroll. Les Wood seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Joe Pouliot moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Hans Tudhope seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Golann,
Clerk of the Board

Next Select Board Meeting
Monday, October 12, 2026 @ Orwell Town Office
7PM